



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 12, 2000

H.R. 3048 **Presidential Threat Protection Act of 2000**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on May 24, 2000

CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would have no significant impact on the federal budget. The bill would affect direct spending and receipts, so pay-as-you-go procedures would apply, but we estimate that the amounts involved would be less than \$500,000 a year. H.R. 3048 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 3048 would broaden the current laws against threatening persons protected by the Secret Service to cover certain family members of major candidates for President and Vice President. For cases involving threats against persons protected by the Secret Service, the bill would provide subpoena authority to the Secretary of the Treasury and would increase the maximum penalties for offenders. H.R. 3048 also would authorize the Secret Service to establish the National Threat Assessment Center as a unit within that agency to provide assistance to federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

The Secret Service already provides assistance to federal and nonfederal agencies for threat assessments through its Office of Protective Research. Based on discussions with the agency, CBO expects that establishing the National Threat Assessment Center would not significantly increase the costs of such assistance.

If H.R. 3048 were enacted, the federal government would be able to pursue cases that it otherwise would not be able to prosecute and could assign longer prison sentences to persons convicted of threatening certain persons protected by the Secret Service. CBO expects that any increase in federal costs for law enforcement, court proceedings, or prison operations would not be significant, however, because of the small number of cases likely to be involved. Any such additional costs would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Because those prosecuted and convicted under H.R. 3048 could be subject to criminal fines, the federal government might collect additional fines if the bill is enacted. Collections of

such fines are recorded in the budget as governmental receipts (revenues), which are deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and spent in subsequent years. CBO expects that any additional receipts and direct spending would be less than \$500,000 each year.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.